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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Tenth Meeting of the Africa Regional
Coordinating Committee for the
Integration of Women in Development

23 - 25 March, 1989
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

NOTE ON THE: FOURTH REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 'ARUSHA STRATEGIES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN IN AFRICA

BACKGROUND

1. The ECA Conference of Ministers Resolution 365 (XIV) adopted on 27 March, 1979 in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco stipulates that a Regional Conference on Women in Development of all member states should be convened every three years to promote the advancement of African women. Actually the first Regional Conference was held in Nouakchott, Mauritania in 1977 where the above resolution was proposed to the ECA Conference of Ministers. The second Regional Conference took place in Lusaka, Zambia in 1979 and the third Conference was held in Arusha, Tanzania in 1984. The meeting in Tanzania was an African Regional Preparatory Conference for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women's Equality, Development and Peace which was held in Nairobi in 1985. The Regional Preparatory Conference held in Tanzania in 1984 was organised with the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and adopted an all encompassing strategies for women entitled the 'Arusha Strategies for the Advancement of African Women beyond the United Nations Decade for Women.

THE ARUSHA STRATEGIES

2. The Arusha Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of African Women beyond the United Nations Decade for Women are long-term plans for the advancement of African women, principally as agents in development, up to and beyond the year 2000. They incorporate and elaborate on the Lagos Plan of Action's recommendation on women and development.

According to the strategies, the sectors where attention must be given to women both in the analysis of the prevailing situation in the measures taken are agriculture and food production, desertification, health, education and human resources development, industry and environment. The strategies also dealt at length with the problems of refugee and displaced women in Africa and peace and apartheid in South Africa and Namibia.

The strategies are the result of a careful analysis of the progress made and obstacles encountered by African women in trying to realize the goals of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development, and Peace. A widely accepted view at the Tanzania Conference was that women's development in Africa was inextricably bound to the problem of peace and Africa's development in general, and no significant progress could be achieved for women outside the overall development strategy of the region. The Arusha conference concluded that the "overall development strategy" currently being envisaged for Africa should have as its central concern the objective of equality for all, men and women, as a precondition for development. In the Decade various development plans and projects showed that full utilization of this human capital (women) has not been seriously undertaken, though some awareness of its potential was evident. This is the reason for the modest progress made in the past ten years.

The strategies indicate that the impediments to recognition of women are varied and complex: they have their roots in the cultural, historical and colonial past of the African continent. Only a concerted and integrated approach is likely to enhance the contribution and visibility of women.

Finally, the Regional Intergovernmental Meeting for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievement of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace/Third Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in Development which met in Arusha, 8 - 12 October 1984, mentioned above, adopted a resolution entitled "Implementation of the Arusha Strategies for African Women". Paragraph two of that resolution requested all African Governments to take appropriate steps to harmonize their national development plans with the objectives and integrated approach of the Arusha Strategies.

3. The strategies were considered by the ECA Conference of Ministers in 1985, Resolution 535 paragraph 4, reads as follows:-

The Conference of Ministers:

"Adopts the report of the Third Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in Development and requests Governments and the institutions concerned to begin to apply the Arusha Forward-Looking Strategies on the Advancement of Women in Africa beyond the United Nations Decade for Women contained in that report".

Fourth Regional Conference:

4. On the occasion of the adoption of the Arusha strategies a resolution called upon "the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and the Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) to convene a regional conference to review and appraise the implementation of the Arusha Strategies not later than 1990 and before the year 2000".

The Africa region, like other regions of the world, has been guided since July 1985 by the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women. These global strategies that marked the end of the United Nations Decade for Women incorporated the Arusha Strategies for the Advancement of women in Africa beyond the United Nations Decade for Women adopted in October 1984. As stated above, the Arusha Strategies took into consideration Africa's socio-economic needs and stage of development. They aimed at a greater integration of women in the development process, and improving women's conditions focussing on seven key areas, namely: agriculture and food productions; impact of desertification on women's condition, industrial development for Africa; human resources development; peace and apartheid in South and Namibia; refugee and displaced women; monitoring changes in the situation of women in Africa.

In order to meet this demand the UNECA is planning to organise the Fourth Regional Conference on the Integration of Women from 12 - 16 September 1989 in the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The Conference will be attended by ECA member states and various observers from international Governmental organisations and non-governmental organisations as well as UN institutions.

5. The expected outcome of the conference are:-

(a) A thorough review and assessment on the degree or implementation of the Arusha Strategies by Governments, UN-bodies, NGOs, etc.

(b) To consider new emerging socio-economic problems that are affecting the lives of women.

(c) If necessary to re-assess the priorities given in the Arusha Strategies and make appropriate recommendations.

The Draft Provisional Agenda and Draft Programme of Work of the Regional Conference are attached as Annex I and II of this document.

ANNEX I

E/ECA/ATRCW/ARCC.X/89/7

Fourth Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in Development

18 - 22 September, 1989

Proposed Provisional Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of Officers
3. Adoption of the Agenda and organisation of work
4. Implementation of the Arusha Strategies for the Advancement of Women in Africa beyond the end of the United Nations Decade for Women: country perspectives
5. Implementation of the Arusha Strategies for the Advancement of Women in Africa beyond the end of the United Nations Decade for Women: regional perspectives
6. Strategies for improving Women's access to education and training in science and technologies
7. Progress report, implementation of the project: "Improving African women's role in informal sector production and management".
8. The situation of women and children under apartheid
9. Flow of resources to women's programmes in the context of African food and debt crisis
10. Adoption of the report

ANNEX II

E/ECA/ATRCW/ARCC.X/89/7

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Fourth Regional Conference on the
Integration of Women in Development and
on the Implementation of the Arusha
Strategies for the Advancement of women
in Africa

12 - 16 September, 1989
Lagos, Nigeria

DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK

DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK

TUESDAY 12 SEPTEMBER, 1989

Morning

9:00 - 10:00 Hrs	:	Registration of Participants
10:00 - 12:00 "	:	Opening Ceremony (Agenda Item 1)
12:00 - 13:00 "	:	(a) Election of Officers (Agenda Item 2)
		(b) Adoption of the Agenda and organisation of work (Agenda Item 3)

Afternoon

15:00 - 18:00 Hrs	:	Implementation of the Arusha Strategies on the advancement of Women in Africa beyond the end of the United Nations Decade for Women: Country reports (Agenda Item 4)

WEDNESDAY 13 SEPTEMBER, 1989

Morning

9:00 - 13:00 Hrs	:	Agenda Item 4 (continues)

Afternoon

15:00 - 18:00	:	Implementation of the Arusha Strategies forthe advancement of women in Africa beyond the end of the United Nations Decade for Women: Regional Perspectives (Agenda Item 5)
	:	Discussion

THURSDAY 14 SEPTEMBER, 1989

Morning

9:00 - 10:00 Hrs	:	Strategies for Improving Women's Access to Education and training in science and technology (Agenda Item 6)

10:00 - 11:00	:	Progress Report Implementation of Project: Improving African Women's Role in informal sector Production and Management (Agenda Item 7)
11:00 - 13:00	:	Discussion of Agenda Item 6 and 7

Afternoon

15:00 - 16:00	:	Flow of Resources to Women's Programmes in the context of the African Food and Debt Crisis (Agenda Item 8)
16:00 - 17:00	:	Women and Children under Apartheid Updated Review (Agenda Item 9)
17:00 - 18:00	:	Discussion of Agenda Item 8 and 9

FRIDAY 15 SEPTEMBER, 1989

Morning

10:00 - 12:00	:	Celebration of the Tenth Anniversary of the African Regional Co-ordinating Committee on the Integration of Women in Development (ARCC)

12:00 - 13:00

Afternoon

I S F R E E

SATURDAY 16 SEPTEMBER, 1989

Morning

9:00 - 11:00	:	Adoption of Resolutions
11:00 - 13:00	:	Adoption of Report

Afternoon

15:00 - 16:00	:	Closing Ceremony